Girls' entry into the Defence Forces

1806. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government had sent a request for setting up of Institutions on the line of Sainik Schools to impart education and training to girls to facilitate them in their entry in Defence Forces;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which such Institutions/Schools are likely to be set up in the State of Gujarat, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter had been received from Minister of State, Education, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat, in 1998 requesting for the setting up of a sainik school for girls so that the girls can get an opportunity to join the defence forces.

(b) and (c) The proposal to open sainik schools for girls has not been agreed to as lady officers in the three Services are recruited for performing certain functions and duties which are of specialized and non-combatant nature and hence restricted in scope.

Disappearance of Airforce Plane spares enroute Bangalore from Nizamuddin

1807. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a consignment containing spare parts of airforce planes have been found missing enroute Bangalore from Nizamuddin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the culprits involved in the case and the officials who showed laxity in the security related consignment have been booked;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor and present status of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A consignment beloging to HAL containing spares of Air Force aircraft was despatched by HAL through M/S Elbee Ltd. by rail from Gwalior to Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station on 11th September 2001. This consignment contained six packages in a box and was to be sent by Air by M/S Elbee Ltd. from Delhi to Bangalore. The consignment was reported to be missing from Hazrat Nizammuddin Railway Station when the representative of M/S Elbee Ltd. came to collect the same at 1500 hours on 12th September, 2001.

(c) to (e) The loss was reported to Nizamuddin RPF Railway Station by Railway Authorities. The case is under investigation by Civil Police. It is learnt that a Departmental Enquiry has also been ordered by Railway Authorities and further action will be taken only after the Police investigation and Departmental Enquiry are completed.

Vehicles and Engines overhauled by ABW

1808. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the established capacity of Army Base Workshop to overhaul vehicles/engines per year;

(b) the total number of vehicles/engines overhauled by the Army Base Workshop during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for tardy planning and execution of overhaul projects; and

(d) the fresh steps taken to utilize established overhaul capacity of Army Base Workshop and to clear the backlog of accumulated vehicles and engines for overhaul?